

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS EDITORIALS AND NEWS REPORTING SUPPORT COUP

REF: ATHENS-4535

1. SUMMARY. IN INITIAL COMMENTS AND IN CONTINUING NEWS REPORTING ATHENS PRESS JULY 17 AND 18 PREDICTABLY SUPPORTS CYPRIOT COUP. EDITORIALS REFLECT SOME AMBIGUITY, HOWEVER, REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WHILE GOG'S APPARENTLY SANITIZED PRESS GUIDANCE DOWNPLAYING MORE INCENDIARY ASPECTS OF TAKEOVER AS WELL AS MIRRORING OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT GOG NOT INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY WRAP-UP OF JULY 18, WHICH IN EFFECT SUMMARIZED GOG'S GUIDELINES TO DAILY PRESS ON CYPRUS COUP, SHOWS ALL NEWS ACCOUNTS HERE STRESSING RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE ON CYPRUS; SAMPSON'S MEETING WITH CABINET; REPORT OF MINISTER OF

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INTERIOR THAT THOSE ARRESTED IN CYPRUS ARE IN GOOD

HEALTH; U.S. AMBASSADOR TO NICOSIA HAD FIRST MEETING WITH NEW CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER DIMITRIOU ON JULY 17; AND THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IN RADIO SPEECH SAID, "THE PRESIDENT LEFT THE ISLAND. IT IS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT THE MATTER CONCERNS ONLY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS."

3. ACROPOLIS' FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, JULY 17, SAID: "THIS IS NOT THE PROPER TIME TO ANALYZE THE DEEPER CAUSES OF THE CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT IN CYPRUS", AND THEN WENT ON TO BLAME MAKARIOS WHO "COULD NOT APPEASE PASSIONS" AND STRESS THAT "THOSE IN POWER" ARE TRANSITORY, INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL CONTINUE, CYPRUS WILL REMAIN UNALIGNED AND "THERE IS NO ENOSIS ISSUE AT PRESENT." ACROPOLIS FURTHER NOTED: "THE US GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT KEEPS SILENT ON THE OVERTHROW OF MAKARIOS. ITS MEANING IS THAT CYPRUS-INDEPENDENCE IS WHAT CONCERNS AMERICA." PAPER PRAISED MODERATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES -- BRITISH, UN, NATO AND CALLED FOR "THOSE IN POWER" TO AVOID BRAGGING AND SEEK ACCOMMODATION AND POLITICAL SOLUTION COMMON TO ALL GREEK CYPRIOTS.

4. ONE OF ESTIA'S TWO EDITORIALS OF JULY 17 DENOUNCED MAKARIOS AS "THE FROCK-WEARING TRAITOR WHO HAS VIOLATED EVERYTHING THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS CONSIDER SACRED" BUT THEN WENT ON TO ALLOW THAT "GREEKS, HOWEVER, WAIT FOR THE SITUATION TO CLARIFY AS REGARDS BOTH DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST MONDAY AND PROSPECTS CONCERNING OUR NATIONAL ISSUE. THE NATION'S FIGHTERS IN CYPRUS, FERVENT SUPPORTERS OF ENOSIS, WHO WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE BLITZ INTERVENTION OF THE CYPRIOT ARMED FORCES, WELCOME THE CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT AND WILL EXTEND ANY ASSISTANCE ... PEACEFULLY FIGHTING WITH GREECE TO ENSURE THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION." ITS OTHER EDITORIAL WAS A PANEGYRIC ON THE THEME "CYPRUS IS RISEN."

3. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS ON JULY 18 FOLLOWED LINE THAT CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY: "... THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURKISH INHABITANTS ON THE ISLAND WILL NOT BE DISTURBED. THEY WILL BE PROTECTED AND THEY MAY CONTINUE THEIR LIFE IN SECURITY... THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF REVERSAL. THE NEW SITUATION IS BEING CONSOLIDATED AND FINALIZED ... NO INTERNAL FACTOR OR EXTERNAL INFLUENCE WILL CHANGE IT. CYPRUS IS BECOMING A FACTOR OF STABILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE RIVALRY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES OVER ITS TERRITORY IS COMING TO AN END. NICOSIA WILL

FOLLOW A POLICY OF COOPERATION AND PEACE WITH ALL
NATIONS."

4.IN VIEW OF MANAGED NEWS POLICY, VOICES OF DISSENT
WERE MUTE IN ATHENS. OPPOSITION TO VIMA NO LONGER
PUBLISHES EDITORIALS AND ATHENS NEWS CHIDED PRESS
CONTROL BY IGNORING CYPRUS EVENTS ENTIRELY JULY 17.
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